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Shifting of Ramanathapuram headquarters from Madurai

* 637 Q.—SRI N. K. PALANISAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to shift the Headquarters offices of Ramanathapuram from Madurai to Ramanathapuram?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU: No, Sir.

SRI N. K. PALANISAMI: Sir, as the headquarters offices like the Collector's office, the District Registrar's office, and the District Court, are all located in Madurai, the people of Ramanathapuram are feeling extreme difficulty to go seventy or eighty miles to their district headquarters. Will the Government, in view of this fact at least, change the headquarters to Sivaganga or Ramanathapuram itself?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU: Some of the Ramanathapuram people themselves prefer to have the headquarters as it is, because they find it more convenient.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, when they put interpellations, must elicit information and not give their view or make any recommendation on what they have in their minds. This is question-hour. Therefore I would again appeal to hon. Members to see, when they ask supplementary questions, that they put them solely for the purpose of eliciting information from the Government and not giving expression to their views.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM: Sir, what are the valid reasons that weigh with the Government in retaining the headquarters of the Ramanathapuram district at Madurai town itself?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU: Because it is more centrally situated and serves the purpose of the Ramanathapuram people also well. Further, change of headquarters means finding buildings, accommodation, and all that, which is very difficult now.

Admission to Engineering Colleges

* 638 Q.—SRI T. S. RAMASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the number of candidates who applied this year for admission to the Engineering Colleges in the State, and the number with distinction in two subjects;

(b) the number selected for each College;

(c) the number among them with distinction in two subjects; and

(d) the number of candidates with distinction in two and more subjects not selected?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: (a) Total number of candidates who applied was 2,947. Out of this, 455 obtained distinction

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in both physical science and mathematics, the two subjects, the grades obtained in which alone are taken into consideration for purposes of admission.

(b)—

	Number.
1 College of Engineering, Guindy	275
2 Government College of Technology, Coimbatore ..	120
3 P.S.G. College of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore	120
4 Alagappa Chettiar College of Engineering and Technology, Karaikudi	120
5 Coimbatore Institute of Technology, Coimbatore ..	120
6 Thyagarajar Engineering College, Madurai ..	120
Total ..	875

(c) Out of the candidates selected, 331 obtained distinction in both physical science and mathematics.

(d) Out of candidates not selected, 124 obtained distinctions in the two subjects—mathematics and physical science.

SRI T. S. RAMASWAMI: Sir, may I know the reasons why these 124 boys who obtained distinctions in two subjects were not selected? May I know whether the Government are going to take any effective action? Similar is the case with regard to medical colleges. About fifty per cent of the students who got more than two distinctions were not selected. May I know whether the Government are going to take effective action to prevent this?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I do not have the facts relating to the medical colleges. But this has to be borne in mind that forty-one per cent of the seats are reserved for Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes. Therefore, forty-one per cent, whether they have got distinction or not, have to be filled up from out of the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes. If it is the opinion of the House that this reservation should be taken away, I have no objection to consider it. But I am sure that the opinion of the House will be against that.

SRI S. RANGANATHA MUDALIAR: May I know, Sir, from out of the candidates mentioned in clauses (c) and (d), how many belong to Harijan community and how many to Backward Classes?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I do not have detailed figures with regard to this.

SRI T. S. RAMASWAMI: May I know, Sir, after allotting the quota for the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, whether the remaining seats have been filled up entirely on consideration of merit or on any other consideration?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Merit is the only consideration. But when we say 'merit', there are other things included in it which have to be taken into consideration. We have to take into consideration whether we should be guided purely by the marks obtained at the public examination or anything else. After a good deal of consideration, we have come to the conclusion that not only the marks obtained in the examination should be taken into consideration, but we should take some other factors also into consideration,

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for example, (a) aptitude, (b) general ability, (c) sports or N.C.C. activities or scouting or other similar activities, (d) extra curricular social service and (e) general physical condition and endurance. I may inform this House that many boys, who had obtained brilliant marks in the examinations, when they were confronted with simple questions, did not show even the basic element of knowledge in the subjects in which they have obtained distinctions. Therefore, we cannot be guided purely by the marks obtained in the examination. As a matter of fact, I am sure that hon. Members would have read the very interesting article written by Sri D. S. Sarma in the 'Hindu'.

SRIMATHI HEMALATHA DEVI : தலைவர் அவர்களே, இந்த என்ஜினியரிங் காலேஜில் சேறுவதற்கு பெண்கள் விண்ணப்பம் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்களா? அவர்களுடைய எண்ணிக்கை என்ன? எவ்வளவு பேர் தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்டார்கள்?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : விண்ணப்பம் கொடுத்த வீரமணிகளும் இருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களில் தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்டவர்கள் பயிற்சி அளிக்கப்பட்டு வருகிறார்கள்.

Liquor permits for foreign tourists

* 639 Q.—**SRI A. A. RASHEED :** Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to liberalise the system of issuing liquor permits for foreign tourists?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Yes, Sir, a proposal for introducing a system of issuing All-India Liquor permits to foreign tourists which would be valid in all States in which prohibition is in force has been under consideration.

SRI A. A. RASHEED : Sir, is the Minister aware that foreign tourists are discouraged to come to our State because of the irksome Prohibition rules?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I am not at all aware of that position. Foreign tourists are coming in large numbers.

SRI A. A. RASHEED : Sir, may I know the reason for taking a sum of Rs. 80,000 from a foreign tourist as security for bail in a Prohibition offence?

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member must put a separate question. If the Hon. Minister knows the case, he can answer.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The hon. Member is wrongly informed.

SRI A. GOVINDASAMY : வெளிநாடுகளில் இருந்து இங்கு வருகின்ற யாத்திரீகர்கள், சென்னையில் எந்தெந்த ஓட்டல்களில் வசதிகளுடன் தங்குவதற்கு அனுமதி அளிக்கப்படுகிறது?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : சென்னையில் நல்ல ஓட்டல்கள் இருக்கின்றன. இன்னென்ன ஓட்டல்களில்தான் தங்கவேண்டுமென்ற நிற்ப்பந்தம் இல்லை. மேலும் அவர்கள் வேண்டிய வசதிகள் பெறுவதற்கு கவனம் செலுத்தப்பட்டு வருகிறது.

SRI A. V. P. ASAITHAMBI : அமெரிக்க கலைஞர் பிரடிக் மார்ச் இங்கு வந்தபோது இந்தச் சட்டத்தின்கீழ் அவரை கைதி செய்து கோர்ட்டின் முன் நிற்க வைத்தார்களே, இது உள்ளபடியே தவறுதலாக கைது செய்யப்பட்டதா அல்லது வேறு காரணம் என்ன?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : கனம் அங்கத்தினர் அவர்கள் சொன்ன கலைஞர் பிரயாணி கைதி செய்யப்படவில்லை.